

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Who We Are

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) is the only "advisory body" in the state where citizens like you elect delegates to represent your interests in natural resources on a local and statewide level to the Natural Resources Board (NRB) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Our delegates believe that with endless natural resources in Wisconsin, our future generations deserve preserved natural resources. It is important that each of us work together towards effectively managing these resources for future generations to enjoy.

Our Vision

- To work together with citizens on a local level to gain opinions regarding management of Wisconsin's natural resources.
- To work with local and statewide organizations regarding management and support of Wisconsin's natural resources.
- To work with local and statewide organizations, educators and citizens regarding outdoor opportunities for youth, men and women and minorities.
- To consider the results of the DNR Spring Hearings and to assist the NRB and the DNR in unifying the results of the hearings.
- To consider citizen submitted resolutions on matters pertaining to management of natural resources.
- To request that the NRB support or oppose legislation or rule changes pertaining to natural resource management.

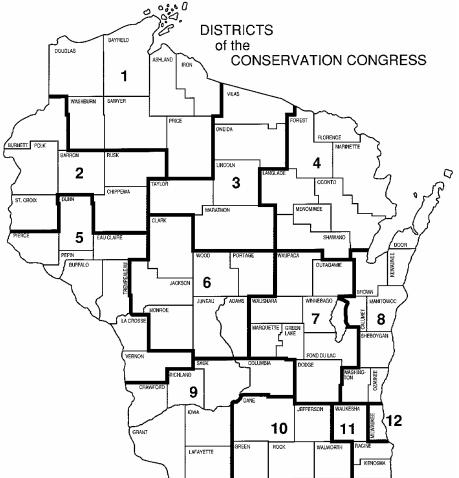
Organizational Structure

County Delegates

Each county shall have five elected delegates from each county to represent the constituents within their county on issues surrounding natural resources. These delegates listen to concerns from local citizens and local clubs and report public comments to their Executive Councilors. These delegates also serve on advisory/study committees within WCC.

Districts

The state is broken down into 12 Districts.



Executive Council

The Conservation Congress shall have a 24 person Executive Council that is comprised of two delegates from each District to serve as Executive Councilors to represent their Districts on natural resource issues.

Executive Committee

The Executive Council will elect a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary from within the Executive Council to represent WCC on a statewide level. The Executive Committee and Committee Chairs report results of advisory opinion and research to the NRB.

Advisory/Study Committees

A Conservation Congress Advisory Committee member represents their county, district and the Congress on several different Natural Resource issues. Committee members review resolutions that have passed at the county level at the Spring Hearings.



Each committee discusses and reviews the resolution, if the resolution passes the advisory committee the resolution is then written into question format and presented to the Executive Council in January for the potential to be placed as a question on the Spring Hearing questionnaire for public input.

To be appointed to a committee, a delegate must have indicated their selections on the Personal History Questionnaire and to the District Councilor. Individuals serving on these committees must be able to devote occasional weekends and weekdays throughout the year to Congress activities. One must have further expressed their interest in and ability to assist the Congress in an extra effort in resource management.

A listing of committees is as follows:

- Air, Waste & Water
- Alternative Funding
- Awards
- Bear
- Big Game
- CWD
- Endangered Resources
- Forestry, Parks & Recreation
- Fur Harvest
- Great Lakes
- Habitat
- Hunting with Dogs
- Law Enforcement
- Legislative
- Migratory
- Mississippi River
- Outdoor Heritage/Education
- Public & Private Land Use
- Rules & Resolutions
- Trout
- Turkey
- Upland Game
- Warm Water
- Wolf

Annual Meeting Schedule

Spring

- Spring District Meetings—Each District has a meeting to review the Spring Hearing questions, gather information from county members, review procedures and gain background information on the questions.
- DNR Spring Fish & Wildlife Rules Hearing & Annual Conservation Congress County Meeting—All attendees are eligible to vote in a non-binding public opinion regarding DNR-proposed regulation changes and on Conservation Congress advisory questions at the Spring Hearings. All attendees are able to submit in written resolutions, those attendees who are residents of the county are eligible to run and/or vote in the WCC delegate election.

Summer

- Conservation Congress convention—the full delegation vote on the public's opinion regarding the DNR Spring Hearings & WCC County meeting and discuss issues pertaining to natural resources. The Rules & Resolutions committee forwards local county resolutions onto committee for further consideration. The Executive Council meets to discuss the results of the Spring Hearings.
- The Executive Council of the Conservation Congress meet with the Natural Resources Board. The Executive Committee establishes advisory committees within WCC.

Fall

- Fall District Meetings—A time for delegates to gain information from the DNR, get to know local Department staff and each other within their District.
- Committee Meetings—Discussion of current issues pertaining to the committee, resolutions and advisory questions are deliberated on.

Winter

- Executive Council meeting for review of WCC Advisory questions.

Contact Us

Local County Delegates

To find your local county delegate, visit
dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/map/

Advisory Committee Members

To find out who the members are of a committee, visit
dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/co/

District Map

To find out what WCC District you are in, visit
dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/map/

Executive Councilors

To find your Executive Councilor of your District, visit
dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/co/excn/

Executive Committee Members

To find your Conservation Congress Executive Committee members visit,
dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/co/exco/m/

Upcoming Meetings & Hearings

dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/mt/



Our Mission

To represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.

Public Input

This is democracy in action!

Citizens like you elect fellow citizens to represent your counties natural resources concerns to the NRB, DNR and the state legislature.

Citizens have the opportunity to actively participate in the Spring Hearing process:

1. By casting their non-binding vote (*public opinion*) on proposed DNR Fish & Wildlife rules changes
2. By casting their non-binding vote (*public opinion*) on WCC advisory questions.
3. Residents of each county, have the opportunity to run for election in the county that they reside in, if they are over 18 years of age.
4. Residents of the county elect delegates to the WCC to represent their views on all natural resource issues.
5. Attendees at the Spring Hearings have the opportunity to raise natural resource issues to the WCC, through the resolution process.
6. Talk with your local county delegates to brief them on your concerns about natural resources.

Working Together

Everyone can agree that our natural resources are important in maintaining a sustainable environment. Everyone can agree that we must preserve our natural resources for future generations. The decisions that we make today effect the future, that is why working together even when we do not agree on all issue is important.

How Can We Work Together?

Local citizens and organizations/clubs can work with their local delegates to provide them with concerns that they have regarding natural resources in their area.

Local citizens, club and organization members must participate in the Spring Hearings, not only to elect delegates but cast their opinion on proposed rule changes and advisory questions.

Do you have a concern of statewide significance? Submit it into WCC through the resolution process, you are in control of what is studied by WCC.

Local citizens, clubs, educators, delegates and statewide organizations working together emphasizing the importance of youth in the outdoors. The DNR has plenty of opportunities, contact a local delegate to find out more or check the options out online.

An Example of How We Have Worked Together in the Past?

In 2005, we partnered with other citizens and organizations to introduce children into the outdoors.

The 2006, WI Outdoor Education Expo will introduce children and families throughout Wisconsin to the outdoors and strengthen their relationships with wildlife and habitat.

The expo will offer people of all ages a learning and participation opportunity in the outdoors. The expo will teach outdoor skills, encourage ethical behavior and offer "hands-on" activities related to outdoor skills, natural resources, conservation and outdoor tourism.

Together we can make a difference in our natural resources and help others to become involved with Wisconsin's natural resources. It is through our combined efforts that this expo is possible.

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Citizens, Local Conservation Clubs and Statewide Organizations Working Together to Manage Wisconsin's Greatest Asset, Our Natural Resources.